

otherwise interfere with the inflation?" "I should doubt it." "Or the Attorney General of the United States?" "I would think not." Mr. Thomas' impressions, he was careful to say, were not based on inquiry into the present plan, or study of the law, but his expression of these impressions was none the less very suggestive of his conviction that nothing can be done to stop the transaction, unless some of the insiders of the company themselves take steps to prevent it.

The greatest surprise has been manifested in all quarters that the Gas Monopoly should have the temerity to undertake now to force a huge inflation plan, involving the addition of several millions of dollars of capitalization that will represent rather less than a mere sky. It was commonly observed that this is the climax of the company's audacious procedure for years past.

"Reduction in Gas." "I recall," said one citizen, "that some years ago, when the price of gas was \$1.50, provision was made for a gradual reduction till it should reach \$1. That looked good to the gas consumers. But what did the Gas Monopoly do? It managed to sneak into an appropriation bill a provision reducing the required candle-power of the gas, and year by year, as the price of gas went down under that sliding scale, the candle-power was carried down in the same proportion so that when the price of gas had got to \$1 the people were getting a gas of such poor quality that the same measure of light or heat would cost as much as at the original price of \$1.50."

That incident was given as an illustration of the company's attitude toward the people, and of its methods in manipulating legislation in Congress. It is certain, according to members of Congress, that if the inflation job is now carried out, determined effort will be made to air it, and to force legal proceedings to enforce the consummation of the plan. Intimations have been made that everything is in readiness to rush the bond issue to consummation instantly. The stockholders' meeting gives authority, and by thus hurrying the bonds into the hands of alleged innocent purchasers, give the securities immunity to attack.

Officials Inevitable. A persistent effort was made today by a reporter for The Washington Times to see and talk with John R. McLean, president, and Richard A. Goldsborough, attorney, of the Gaslight Company, and others identified with that organization qualified to speak upon the proposed \$5,000,000 bond issue, which, it is said, is to be authorized at the meeting of the company on Monday evening next, but without success.

Mr. McLean was at his office at the Gaslight building, in Fourth street, this afternoon, but when a card was sent to him he promptly sent back word that he "was engaged in a private meeting, and could not see the reporter at any time during the day." Therefore, no word of explanation or elucidation from him was forthcoming.

Mr. Goldsborough, it was learned, was at luncheon with a friend at a downtown hotel this afternoon, but all efforts to get in communication with him for the purpose of an interview which might give the views of the Gaslight Company upon the proposed bond issue were unavailing, as Mr. Goldsborough refused to see the reporter for The Times.

Other officials of the company also declined to be seen or to discuss the matter.

ASQUITH DOWNFALL FREELY PREDICTED

Premier's Policy Expected to Bring About Expulsion Should He Accept.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Some "insider" political information that leaked out today makes it apparently inevitable that Premier Asquith, even should he accept the reins of the Liberal administration will soon be ousted by his party in favor of the more radical David Lloyd George, the chancellor of the exchequer.

In the opinion of many of the shrewdest politicians in England the premier has met the usual fate of the man trying to carry water on both shoulders. He has spilled both buckets and offended both King Edward and the Liberal radicals, who are now clamoring for his political demise the moment this can be arranged without injury to the party.

It developed today that Asquith had come to a virtual agreement with King Edward, in response to the King's invitation, to do all in his power to curb the radical demands for the abolition of the veto power of the house of lords.

Arrangement With King. On January 24, the premier accepted an invitation to spend a week-end at Windsor Castle to discuss early legislation in the next parliament. The King was anxious for an arrangement whereby the attack on the house of lords could be avoided, and he is understood to have suggested to the premier that the latest be introduced before any legislation affecting the lords, the hope that the passage of the budget would so placate the Liberals that they would drop their demand for the reformation of the house of lords.

Almost immediately Asquith learned that such a program would be violently opposed by the radical Liberals, who are in the majority. On January 27, therefore, he wrote to the King canceling his Windsor Palace engagement, and setting out for Cannes in order to avoid a most embarrassing situation.

So suspicious are the radicals of Asquith that Lloyd-George is following the premier to Cannes to "keep an eye" on him. If King Edward overlooks the snub given him by the premier, it will be the first time that such an affront has been allowed to go unmentioned, and will indicate clearly the King's recognition of the necessity of "playing in" with the Liberals.

Lines Are Solid. Since the close of the election, the Liberals, Irish Nationalists, and Laborites, with a majority of more than 120, have cemented the compact agreed on in the closing days of the election, and will present a solid phalanx against the peers, demanding the curtailment of the lords' veto in matters of finance before the introduction of the budget.

GIRL VICTIM'S BROTHER AT SCENE OF SHOOTING

Gloom Pervades Maryland University As Result of Double Tragedy.

POLICE HOLD BODY OF ELIJAH BADAL

Miss Lewsen and Mohammedan Who Killed Her Said to Have Become Friends in Boston.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 4.—Nicholas Lewsen, brother of Miss Marie Lewsen, student of the University of Maryland from Portland, Me., who was murdered by Elijah Baba Badal, the Persian medical student, is in Baltimore today arranging for the funeral of one victim of the double tragedy.

Both bodies are now in the morgue. Gloom pervades the atmosphere at the university, where both were students. None of the relatives of the Christianized Mohammedan will come to Baltimore.

Marshal Farnham received two telegrams from M. E. Badal, of Des Moines, Iowa. The first telegram ordered that the body be interred in Baltimore at his expense, while the second, which was received several hours later, ordered that the body be sent to J. E. Farnham, Yonkers, N. Y.

The Baltimore authorities have no fund to prepare bodies for burial, and nothing will be done in the matter until the Yonkers man arranges directly with the local police.

Information received in Baltimore from Boston is to the effect that Miss Lewsen was a student at Tufts at the same time that Badal was at Harvard, and that the two were acquainted in that city. Some of the students say that Badal still worshipped Mohammed.

Another story of the tragedy is to the effect that Badal had been chided by fellow-student about Miss Lewsen at the lunch table a few minutes before the shooting.

ARMY UNPREPARED SHOULD WAR COME

Startling Allegations to Be Made in Report of General Staff.

(Continued from First Page.)

great endeavor, land an army of 300,000 at any point on the Atlantic seaboard within two weeks.

On the Pacific coast, Japan, within three weeks, could land 100,000 veterans at any given point and double the force within ten days. In possession of any of our fortified harbors, it would take this nation six months even to prepare for the first offensive movement against an enemy on either coast, and the time in years it would take us to dislodge them, until a disgraceful peace was forced upon us, is entirely problematical.

In this connection, statistics show that Lee held the lines at Petersburg against troops, with 15 men per yard. A Japanese army of 100,000 holding the peninsula at San Francisco, would have 2.2 men per yard. An army of 150,000 men at either Boston or New York in control of the sea defenses, could hold out indefinitely against an army five times their number.

Sea Control. The question of sea control is, of course, to be considered. The navy can only offer security to one coast line. No one can forestall in shore attacks from days from which coast that attack will come. The province of the navy is largely offensive, and if our ships are to be tied to our coast defenses, to defend them, they will constitute a floating Chinese wall, and an enemy can take our insular possessions and then send emissaries to sign a peace compact.

At present every gun emplaced in our coast defenses is a menace rather than a protection. They constitute an alluring invitation to attack. The primary problem which confronted the general staff was to provide for protection of these defenses. This could only be accomplished through the employment of mobile troops.

The infantry constitutes the heart and punch of the army, and we are wretchedly weak in that arm of the service. Eight of our thirty regiments are stationed in the Philippines and one in Alaska. We could not mobilize any force on either coast to prevent a landing of a determined enemy.

Next to the infantry the field artillery is the most effective arm of our mobile army. We have an entirely inadequate force of this arm. The general staff will point out these weaknesses; hold that the lay mind can fully appreciate the fact that if we are to be tied to international trouble we will be strictly on the receiving end.

Up To People. Sufficient increase, especially in these two arms of the service will be asked for to provide stiffening vertebrae to our citizen soldiers and to deter any enemy from attacking our coast line. The responsibility will then be up to the people and it is expected that when these plain statements concerning our national insecurity are made public that provision will be made by Congress to prevent any such humiliating eventualities as a foreign recommendation on our coast defenses.

The publication of the plan of the general staff is being awaited with considerable interest by the foreign military attaches stationed here, who rarely have opportunity to report any matters of military interest to their home governments. It is frankly acknowledged by these military observers that if our coast defenses are supported by mobile troops, our position among the world powers will assume a new phase and that the military staffs of the powers will have a new problem to solve. It is expected that the reorganization plan will be made public just prior to April 15, when the present chief of staff, Gen. O. F. Smith, is relieved by Gen. Leonard Wood.

White House Callers. The Cabinet met today. Senators Cullum of Illinois, Gamble of North Dakota, Representatives McKinlay of California, Austin of Tennessee, Langley of Kentucky, Fordney of Michigan, Collector of the Port William Leob, Jr., of New York, George W. Perkins, of New York, Timothy Woodruff, of New York, Milton E. Allen, of Washington.

AGED WOMAN DIES. Miss Mary Rumm, seventy-seven years old, died this morning at her home, 1217 First street southeast. She had been in ill health for several months.

ARTIST RUSSELL DEAD. BOSTON, Feb. 4.—George D. Russell, whose paintings formerly adorned the corridors of the old Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York, and whose musical compositions had a considerable popularity, died at his home in Roxbury today, aged eighty-seven years. For forty years he was a music publisher here.

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ALL DRUGGISTS

BARGAIN DAY SAVES THIEF FROM PRISON

Plumes Marked Down, Hence Robber Escapes Grand Larceny Charge.

EAST LIVERPOOL, Ohio, Feb. 4.—Because it happened to be bargain day when he stole six ostrich plumes from a department store, George Brown escaped a penitentiary sentence and was sent to the workhouse instead today.

The plume, ordinarily valued at \$12, were marked down to \$3. The grand jury said that the offense was petit larceny on bargain day, but would have been grand larceny at any other time, when the value of the goods exceeded \$5.

CRITICS DISPLEASED WITH POOLE'S PLAY

John Mason Barely Saves "None So Blind," At New York Theater.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—New York critics today fall to enthuse over "None So Blind," Ernest Poole's first attempt as a playwright, which was produced last night at the Hackett Theater, but they unite in giving full measure of praise to John Mason's splendid ability as a finished actor.

The play is said to lack effectiveness at all times, though, Mason and his capable company did their best to save it from disaster.

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and they will some day rise to call you blessed. It cleanses, beautifies and preserves the teeth and imparts purity and fragrance to the breath.

SPECIAL NOTICES. AFTER THIS DATE I WILL NOT BE responsible for any debts contracted by my wife, Mary (Dunne) Howells, S. D. HOWELLS, November 26, 1909.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE stockholders of the Roslyn Brick Co. will be held at the office of the Company, No. 1212 1/2 Teath street northwest, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1910, at 12 O'CLOCK NOON. The polls will be open from 12 o'clock noon to 1 o'clock P. M.

OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY. Washington, D. C. January 29, 1910. The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Washington Gas Light Company for the election of directors and for such other business as may properly come before said meeting, will be held at the office of the Company, No. 1212 1/2 Teath street northwest, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1910, at 12 O'CLOCK NOON. The polls will be open from 12 o'clock noon to 1 o'clock P. M.

WILLIAM B. ORME, Secretary.

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